

7. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of selecting said reference picture comprises the steps of:

deriving a switching criterion from the coded representation; and
using said switching criterion for said selection step.

8. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of selecting said reference picture comprises the steps of:

deriving a switching criterion from the reconstructed picture; and
using said switching criterion for said selection step.

9. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of deriving said switching criterion comprises the steps of:

extracting a plurality of quantization parameters from the coded representation;
calculating an average quantization parameter for the picture; and
comparing said average quantization parameter to a predefined threshold.

10. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of deriving said switching criterion comprises the steps of:

extracting a plurality of quantization parameters from the coded representation;
calculating an average quantization parameter for the picture; and
comparing said average quantization parameter to a plurality of predefined threshold.

11. (Amended-Clean Text) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

producing an output image that is filtered if said quantization parameter is above a first threshold; and

storing said reference picture that is filtered if said quantization parameter is above a second threshold.

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17. (Amended-Clean Text) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said means for obtaining said filtered picture works on a sub-portion of the picture by comparing quantization parameters of each sub-portion of the picture.

18. (Amended-Clean Text) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said means for selecting said reference picture comprises:

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a means for deriving a switching criterion from the coded representation; and

a means for using said switching criterion for said selection means.

19. (Amended-Clean Text) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said means for selecting said reference picture comprises:

a means for deriving a switching criterion from the reconstructed picture; and

a means for using said switching criterion for said selection means.

20. (Amended-Clean Text) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said means for deriving said switching criterion comprises: